

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01846 121640Z

47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 121630Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0431

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 01846

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, GY

SUBJECT: REYNOLDS NATIONALIZATION - NOTE VERBALE OF USG POSITION

REF: GEORGETOWN 01791

1. WHEN I SAW MINISTER JACK OCTOBER 12 ON MATTER OF OPIC PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REYNOLDS FACILITIES, HE RAISED WITH ME THE QUESTION OF PM BURNHAM'S REQUEST TO HAVE NOTE VERBALE OF USG POSITION ON REYNOLDS MATTER AS SET FORTH IN MY TALK WITH PM ON SEPT. 28. JACK SAID PM ASKED HIM TO PUT QUESTION TO ME ON BASIS THAT PM WOULD LIKE TO HAVE "YES" OR "NO" ANSWER SO THAT HE COULD " "MOVE ON TO OTHER THINGS."

2. I TOLD JACK THAT I HAD PHONED PM BURNHAM EARLIER THIS WEEK (REFTEL) TO REPORT THAT I HAD BEEN ADVISED DEPARTMENT WAS STILL STUDYING MATTER. I ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD INFORM THE DEPT. OF HIS INQUIRY AND WOULD HOPE TO HAVE ANSWER SHORTLY.

3. COMMENT: I STILL BELIEVE BURNHAM WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BLACK AND WHITE STATEMENT OF USG POSITION FOR EVENTUAL, IF NOT IMMEDIATE, PUBLICITY PURPOSES. ON BALANCE, I BELIEVE WE HAVE LESS TO LOSE BY TELLING PM AT THIS STAGE THAT STATEMENT WAS MADE AS PART OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO GOVTS IN ENDEAVOR TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES WHICH MIGHT OFFER PROSPECT OF REACHING NEGOTIATED, OR "CONSENSUAL," SOLUTION AND THAT IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS WE SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY EITHER SIDE IN FORMALIZING THESE THOUGHTS IN WRITTEN FORM. I WOULD SUGGEST HOLDING OFF ANOTHER FOUR
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OR FIVE DAYS BEFORE CONVEYING THIS REPLY (OR ANY OTHER REPLY DEPT.

MIGHT WISH TO MAKE), SINCE WE ARE PROBABLY APPROACHING POINT WHEN
GOG WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF PHYSICAL INTER-
VENTION AT REYNOLDS FACILITIES.
KREBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, COMPENSATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GEORGE01846
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740291-0705
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741049/aaaabpzw.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: GEORGETOWN 01791
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REYNOLDS NATIONALIZATION - NOTE VERBALE OF USG POSITION
TAGS: EINV, EMIN, GY, US, REYNOLDS, (BATCHELDER, CLARK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005